





Winter Woods







WHY...



DOES THIS KEEP REPEATING ITSELF..?



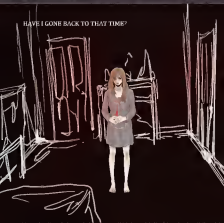
THIS FEELING

THIS HEAT.

THIS PAIN

IT'S SO VIVID.

HAVE I GONE BACK TO THAT TIME?



OR, IS THIS REALITY?



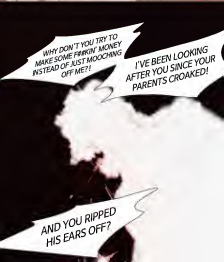
YOU CRAZY
BITCH!!



I TOLD YOU TO
F#*KING SHAPE
UP.



F##K!!



WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO
MAKE SOME FRKIN' MONEY
INSTEAD OF JUST MOOCHING
OFF ME?!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING
AFTER YOU SINCE YOUR
PARENTS CROAKED!

AND YOU RIPPED
HIS EARS OFF?



ARE YOU SERIOUSLY
GOING TO KEEP BEING
LIKE THIS?!

STOP YELLING.

MY EARS HURT.



I THOUGHT
I'D BE ABLE TO USE
YOU FOR SOMETHING
BUT F*CK IT!

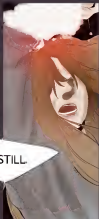
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.

I FEEL SICK.





YOU DON'T
HAVE MUCH TIME
LEFT ANYWAY.



STAY STILL

A close-up of a hand holding a sharp, silver knife, with the blade pointed upwards. The background is dark and blurry.

IF YOU START
THE SHIT AGAIN,
I'LL KILL YOU.

NO.

A close-up of a young woman's face, showing her large, expressive blue eyes and long, dark hair. She has a slightly concerned or pleading expression.

NO.

A close-up of a hand holding a red pen, with the pen tip pointing towards the bottom right. The hand is wearing a grey sleeve.

NO.



I SAID STOP IT

STOP









I HATED
THE SOUND OF
YOUR VOICE.

STB

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT

STB

I HATED
THE SOUND OF
YOU CALLING ME.

I DREAMT OF FREEDOM AS I SNAPPED THIS TWIG FROM
OUTSIDE THE WINDOW AND SHARPENED IT.

572

I HATED THE WAY YOU
ACTED LIKE YOU WERE
DOING ME A FAVOR.

THE SHARPER THE STICK GOT, THE MORE I SMILED



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a red pen, poised to write on a white surface. The hand is positioned at the top of the frame, with the pen pointing downwards. The background is dark and out of focus.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

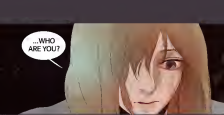
AND ESPECIALLY MOANING SOUND.

THAT SOUND!

OH MY-

THIS IS
NO GOOD.





...WHO
ARE YOU?



I'M SOMEONE
WHO CAN MAKE ALL
THIS GO AWAY,
FOR A FEE.

DID YOU
COME HERE TO
KILL HIM?

A close-up, high-contrast black and white image of a character's face. The character has dark hair and is looking slightly to the right. A speech bubble is positioned near the mouth.

NO,

YOU.

A color illustration of a character with long, straight brown hair and bangs. The character is looking slightly to the left with a serious expression. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the character's head.

THEN
KILL ME.

WHAT
GOOD WOULD
THAT DO?

THE GUY
YOU'RE SITTING ON
IS MY PAYCHECK.



CAN'T
YOU JUST...
KILL ME?



ARE YOU
SAYING YOU
WANT TO DIE?



NO.
I WANT TO
LIVE.



YOU'RE A VERY
INTERESTING GIRL.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN
AFRAID AS YOU SAY
YOU WANT TO LIVE.



OR IS YOUR FACE
JUST PERMANENTLY
FROZEN LIKE THAT?

ARE YOU
ENJOYING THIS?



YOU'RE JUST
VERY UNIQUE



WOULD YOU
LIKE ME TO HELP
YOU LIVE?







DON'T MAKE
ME MISERABLE
ANYMORE.





HELP ME LIVE.







LONG AGO,
I ONCE SAW YOU SMILE
AS YOU HAPPENED TO
SEE A FLOWER BLOWN IN
THROUGH THE WINDOW.



I WAS AMAZED TO
FINALLY SEE THAT FACE
OF YOURS GET ROUND,
SINCE IT'S NORMALLY
AS STIFF AS A ROCK.

I PICKED A FLOWER AND
PUT IT ON THE TABLE FOR
YOU BECAUSE I WANTED TO
SEE THAT CHANGE AGAIN,



AND I WATCHED
YOU SECRETLY AS
I PRETENDED
TO COOK.



OF COURSE,
YOUR FACE WAS STIFF
LIKE NORMAL BECAUSE
YOU KNEW I WAS THERE,
BUT I SAW IT. YOU WERE
TRYING TO HIDE
YOUR FEAR.



I KNOW THAT YOU
WERE AFRAID
AT THE TIME.

YOU WERE
FROZEN RIGHT
THERE, HOLDING
THAT FLOWER.

THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAD ALREADY SEEN
THE LOOK OF FEAR
ON YOUR FACE.

IT'S TRUE.
I WAS SCARED
ACTUALLY. THE WAY
YOU CHANGED WAS
SO STRANGE

AND I AM SO AFRAID
OF MINE AS WELL.





BUT I JUST
IGNORED THAT
EXPRESSION OF
YOURS AT THE TIME.

I DIDN'T WANT
TO ACCEPT IT.



WHY?

THE REASON
I KEPT YOU NEAR ME
WAS TO SEE THAT
EXPRESSION.

IF I ADMITTED
THAT I HAD SEEN IT,
THEN WHAT?
DO I HAVE TO
LEAVE?

CAN'T YOU
JUST DO WHAT
YOU WANT TO?

THAT MAY BE
EASY FOR YOU,
BUT NOT FOR ME.

I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING WITHOUT
A PURPOSE.



BUT...
WHEN I THINK BACK
ON IT NOW, I THINK
THAT SUBCONSCIOUSLY
I DIDN'T WANT TO
LEAVE YOU.

I WAS CURIOUS
TO SEE HOW MUCH
YOU WOULD BRING
CHANGE THAT
I COULDN'T.

THAT MUST BE
WHY I ACTED LIKE
I HADN'T SEEN THAT
EXPRESSION.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO
BE WITH ME, THEN SAY IT.
IF YOU DO, THEN-



...YOU'VE HAD
DREAMS BEFORE,
RIGHT?

I MEAN THE
KIND YOU HAVE
WHEN YOU'RE
SLEEPING.



WELL I HAVEN'T.
THAT'S THE
REASON.

YOU'RE NOT
MAKING ANY SENSE...
DON'T CHANGE
THE SUBJECT.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
IT EITHER.



I THOUGHT
IT DIDN'T MATTER
WHETHER I WAS A
PERSON OR NOT.
IN FACT, I ACTUALLY
THOUGHT I WAS
SUPERIOR.

AND THEN...

I CERTAINLY
KNEW THAT



AND I HAD
MY FIRST
DREAM-

I'M ACTUALLY
JEALOUS.

JEALOUS OF THAT
GRADUAL PROCESS
OF CHANGE,

OF BEING ABLE
TO DREAM,



AND OF HAVING
THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITY
OF CONTINUING TO
CHANGE IN THE FUTURE.

A man with brown hair, wearing a white shirt and black pants, sits on a dark park bench. A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a light-colored dress, sits next to him, leaning her head on his shoulder. They are in a park with trees and a building in the background.

BUT
ADORA...

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THE GOOD
PART IS?



I MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO DREAM,
BUT I'VE FOUND IT.

A close-up of a man's face with brown hair, looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression.

JUST AS YOU SAID,
I'VE FOUND SOMETHING
THAT I WANT TO DO.



SO NOW,
I'M GOING TO
LEAVE YOU
AS YOU ARE.



JUST LIKE A
REGULAR PERSON.

I'M GOING TO STOP
BOTHERING YOU AND
GIVE YOU FREEDOM.



SO YOU CAN
COME TO WHERE
I LIVE ANYTIME
YOU LIKE.

MAKE FRIENDS,
GOSSIP, AND EVEN
FIGHT - DO ANYTHING
YOU WANT.

BUT DON'T TRY
TO FIND ME.

EVEN IF YOU WALK BY ME,
PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
IF YOU CAN PROMISE ME THAT,
YOU CAN COME TO THE MISTY
WOODS WHENEVER YOU LIKE.

...HOW LONG DO
I HAVE TO IGNORE
YOU FOR?





I TOLD YOU.
THERE'S ONE THING
I HAVE TO DO.

UNTIL I FINISH IT,
YOU AND I HAVE TO
BE LIKE COMPLETE
STRANGERS.



BUT ONCE
I FINISH THIS,
LET'S LEAVE HERE
TOGETHER.

WE'LL BUILD A HOUSE
AND LIVE IN THE FOREST
TOGETHER, WITH NOBODY
ELSE AROUND.



SQUEEZE

YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO DO
ANYTHING BAD,
RIGHT?

IT'S NOT
BAD.

IT'S JUST
FAIR.

Winter Woods

윈터 우즈
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STORY BY COSMOS

✉ twcosmos@naver.com

ART BY YAN JI

✉ qkswltre@naver.com







LINE Webtoon